

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

Claim 1. (Original) A method of making an unfired refractory component that is resistant to reaction with molten aluminum or magnesium, comprising:

- (a) forming a slurry comprising calcium silicate-containing refractory material and a barium- or strontium-containing compound;
- (b) placing the slurry in a mould;
- (c) dewatering the slurry to form the component; and
- (d) hydrothermally processing the component to form a final product.

Claim 2. (Original) A method according to claim 1 wherein the barium- or strontium-containing compound is a barium-containing compound selected from barium sulphate, barium oxide and barium hydroxide.

Claim 3. (Original) A method according to claim 2 wherein the barium sulphate is a powder or a slurry.

Claim 4. (Original) A method according to claim 2 wherein the barium oxide or the barium hydroxide is an aqueous solution.

Claim 5. (Original) A method according to claim 4 wherein the aqueous solution is prepared with water at a temperature of at least 30°C.

Claim 6. (Original) A method according to claim 4 wherein the aqueous solution is prepared with water at a temperature of at least 40°C.

Claims 7-13. (Cancelled)